

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 5, 2001 (BOS Mtg. 12/18/01)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Transportation Enhancement Program Application for the Yorktown Capital Improvement Program

Issue

Staff is requesting authorization and endorsement of an application for funding assistance through the Transportation Enhancement Program. The application is a request of \$800,000 for proposed improvements to the Yorktown Waterfront Area.

Considerations

1. The federally authorized Transportation Enhancement Program provides opportunities for a variety of transportation system “enhancements” that improve aesthetics, provide quality-of-life benefits, or that better integrate transportation projects into communities and the natural environment. It was through this program that York County was awarded \$528,000 in 1994 to assist in the construction of the Riverwalk, and \$550,000 in 1999 and an additional \$607,000 in 2001 to assist in the Waterfront and Beach Trail Improvements project.

The Virginia Transportation Enhancement Program is administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and project funding decisions are made through an application evaluation process conducted by VDOT and ultimately approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

2. Approximately \$18 million is anticipated to be available for distribution during this year’s funding cycle. There is a requirement that at least 20 percent of the total cost of a project be covered by local funds (i.e. - 80% federal/20% local). The program is not a “grant” but rather is structured to provide reimbursement to the applicant for eligible project expenditures, up to the authorized amount. Applications for funding under this year’s program must be submitted by January 31, 2001.
3. The approved Yorktown Capital Improvements Program includes construction of a new pier at the Yorktown waterfront, and that pier is the element that is proposed to be included in this year’s Transportation Enhancement Program application. A major component of the waterfront improvement plan involves the construction of a new pier capable of accommodating a variety of vessels. The proposed pier will extend out approximately 250 feet from the foot of Ballard Street and will be in a ‘T’ shape to provide docking opportunities on the landward and channel sides. The pier will be capable of docking dinner cruise boats, passenger cruise lines, tall-ships, and recreational/pleasure craft. The new pier is included in the approved Yorktown Capital Im-

provements Program during fiscal year 2002 at a cost of \$2.8 million. The approved Yorktown Capital Improvement Program anticipates using an IDA bond to fund the \$2.8 million needed for the pier. If the County is successful in securing adequate funding from this upcoming Virginia Transportation Enhancement Program cycle or from other sources, it will reduce the amount of funding needed from the IDA bond.

4. It is unlikely that the County will be successful in receiving the total amount of the funding request. The staff has reviewed the history of project approvals since the inception of the Enhancements Program in 1993 and has found that the largest single award was \$1.5 million (most have been substantially less than \$500,000). However, some localities, such as York County, have been awarded funding spread over the course of several years for the same project; and the sum of those awards has been significant.
5. The final paragraph in proposed Resolution R01-229 contains language required by VDOT committing the County to repay VDOT for any expenditure on a project that the County subsequently elects to cancel. In this regard, it is important to note that the Board will have an opportunity to decide whether or not to accept a project funding award, if it is offered, and before any expenditures are made. As part of this future action, the Board would specifically approve the source and amount of any local matching funds necessary to proceed with the project.
6. The project has been submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for endorsement, as required by VDOT procedures.

Recommendation

The Transportation Enhancement Program provides a good opportunity to secure non-County funding for implementation of major elements of the Yorktown improvement effort. The pier project is described in the adopted Yorktown Master Plan and was refined and re-affirmed in the July 1998 "Focus on Yorktown II- the Wharf" workshop. The project will complement the Riverwalk also funded through the Enhancement Program and will dramatically transform and improve the focal point of the Yorktown waterfront. The project meets the eligibility requirements for Enhancement Program funding.

I recommend that the Board authorize submission of the application for \$800,000 for the Yorktown Pier project through the adoption of proposed Resolution R01-229.

Kraus/5200:aer

Attachments:

- Proposed Resolution R01-229